

EFFECT OF THE EUROPEAN  
WAR 305

the Allied war of England and France against Russia in 1854 there thus appeared, under the practices of these two nations, to exist no mode of escape for neutral commerce. This condition naturally created deep perturbation among merchants, so that under the united pressure of neutral governments, England, in March 1854, assented to waive for the time the right of seizing enemies' property laden on<sup>o</sup> board a neutral vessel<sup>v</sup> X<sup>s</sup> ^ were contraband of war—that is, *e.g.*, arms and munitions—while France simultaneously agreed that neutral goods carried in an enemy's ship should not be captured and confiscated. At the close of the war, then, the Powers assembled in conference in Paris, and resolved upon a Declaration concerning maritime warfare, which embodied the concessions which have just been described. In April 1856, this declaration was accepted by Great Britain, France, Austria, Prussia, Russia, and other countries. The main provisions (for our purpose) show that the neutral flag protects an enemy's goods with the exception of contraband of war: and that neutral goods, with the exclusion of contraband of war, are exempt from capture under an enemy's flag. Many weighty objections were urged in England against our acceptance of the rule which became designated as "Free ships, free goods." And the judgment was expressed that while Great Britain remained neutral, her commerce and carrying trade were affected favourably by the Declaration, while, if this country should become involved in a great maritime war, the immense volume of our imports and exports would furnish a signally vulnerable mark for the cruisers of an enemy which would seek safety for its own trade under neutral flags. The prophetic gift lay in this forecast of sixty years ago.

To resume our narration of the Declaration of London. This Declaration was the result of a conference held in London, on the invitation of the British Government, in 1908 and 1909, upon the laws and customs appertaining to naval warfare. On the subject of contraband of war, the Declaration specified three lists of articles, namely, (1) absolute

contraband, (2) conditional contraband, and (3) articles which may not be declared contraband. *Absolute Contraband* (No. 1) included articles which were exclusively employed for purposes of war,